An Internet Archive user's take on Hachette v. Internet Archive

By Chicken4War

The Internet Archive has recently been sued by 4 publishers. Just yesterday, as of me writing this, a judge has decided in favor of those 4 publishers. The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York had determined that the Internet Archive had committed copyright infringement by scanning books and publishing them online. Why did they sue? Because they don't want books to be free. They want people to pay for their stuff. Tell me why you want an archive full of MILLIONS of books to be gone? Historical books, nonetheless. I can go onto the Internet Archive and I can find books from THOUSANDS of years ago. You want to look at church documents from 1567? Search "creator:Catholic Church", and you'll be able to change the time period. Voila. You can now look at text that is potentially hundreds of years older than anything in your house right now.

People need this. History students, science students, and a lot of society as a whole relies on libraries. The idea that we need to take away people's access to information reminds me a whole lot of 1984 (which is, coincidentally, also a book). If you take away an archival website that has years of stuff on it, a lot of that stuff might get lost. A lot of software has been purposefully moved to the Internet Archive from defunct websites to save it from extinction. You can even look at archives of those defunct websites by using the Wayback Machine. The oldest known version of Google? Obama's promotional website for his 2004 U.S. Senate run? A coffee machine from 1997? All there.

There is footage of 9/11 and the days that followed from 19 different news channels. There are books from 1754 that are older than Beethoven. Endless possibilities for knowledge. And yet, all you have achieved from this lawsuit is the death of all this knowledge. Why do you not want knowledge to be free? Why do you choose to keep everything from the public? What's next? You're going to sue libraries? For "unlawful possession of private property?" What's the point of having books if you won't let anyone near them? So much history will go to waste because of this lawsuit. Have you seen the public outcry? Everyone hates your decision! Everybody! If you make a decision and every person around you thinks it's a bad decision, it's most likely a bad decision. This pisses me off. I just needed to rant about this.

Glory to the Internet Archive.
Knowledge is power.
And, in my opinion,
Everybody deserves a right for their education.

-Chicken4War

I do not want to live in a time where books being publicly available is against the law